

S. 3579

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3579, a bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.

S. 3726

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3726, a bill to address research on, and improve access to, supportive services for individuals with long COVID.

S. 3742

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3742, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

S. 3846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3846, a bill to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3871

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3871, a bill to provide a means for Congress to prevent an organization's designation as a foreign terrorist organization from being revoked by the Secretary of State.

S. 3874

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3874, a bill to amend section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure appropriate compensation for certain hours of overtime work by border patrol agents.

S. 4065

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4065, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, and for other purposes.

S. 4109

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4109, a bill to authorize the development of a national strategy for the research and development of distributed ledger technologies and their applications, to authorize awards to support research on distributed ledger

technologies and their applications, and to authorize an applied research project on distributed ledger technologies in commerce.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives relating to "Definition of 'Frame or Receiver' and Identification of Firearms".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 623—CALLING ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 623

Whereas, pursuant to section 1754(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2779A), and section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371), the authority to designate a country as a state sponsor of terrorism rests with the Secretary of State;

Whereas Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, Iran, and Syria are designated as state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has and continues to promote acts of international terrorism against political opponents and nation states;

Whereas, under the orders of President Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation engaged in a campaign of terror, utilizing brutal force targeting civilians during the Second Chechen War;

Whereas actions by the Government of the Russian Federation against civilian centers, such as Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, left countless innocent men, women, and children dead or wounded;

Whereas, since 2014, the Government of the Russian Federation has supported separatists engaging in acts of violence against Ukrainian civilians in the Donbas region;

Whereas, since the entry of the Russian Federation into the Syrian Civil War in 2015, the Russian Federation has targeted innocent civilians in Syria with attacks on civilian markets, medical facilities, and schools;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation provides material support to Syria, a nation currently designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, that has been used to target the Syrian people;

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, the Russian Federation spreads terror throughout the world through private military networks of mercenaries, such as the Wagner Group, in an effort to "project power cheaply and deniably";

Whereas the Wagner Group collaborates with the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation to support the foreign policy objectives of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury identifies the Wagner Group as "a designated

Russian Ministry of Defense proxy force" and states that "Wagner's activities in other countries, including Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, and Libya, have generated insecurity and incited violence against innocent civilians";

Whereas it was reported in February 2022 that more than 400 Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group were dispatched to Kyiv with orders from the Kremlin to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky and members of the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 14, 2022, Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Zbigniew Rau stated that actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in Ukraine against innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure is "state terrorism";

Whereas, on March 17, 2022, President Volodymyr Zelensky called for the world to acknowledge the Russian Federation as a terrorist state;

Whereas the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has appealed to Congress to encourage the Department of State to recognize the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism noting that "the Russian Federation has for years supported and financed terrorist regimes and terrorist organizations, including being the main supplier of weapons to the Assad regime in Syria and supporting terrorists in the Middle East and Latin America, organizing acts of international terrorism, including the poisoning of the Skripal family in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the downing of a civilian Malaysian airliner and other acts of terrorism";

Whereas, on April 27, 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated before Congress that "there's no doubt in my mind that the Russians are terrorizing the Ukrainian people";

Whereas, at the direction of President Putin, the Russian Federation has and continues to commit war crimes by directing and authorizing the indiscriminate targeting of civilian centers within Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of countless innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas armed forces of the Russian Federation have committed numerous summary executions against innocent civilians and have attempted to cover their atrocities with mass graves across Ukraine; and

Whereas, when responding to questions regarding designating the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism, the spokesperson for the Department of State stated that "we are going to look at all potential options—options that are available to us under the law, options that would be effective in holding Russia to account—and if a tool is available and effective, we won't hesitate to use it": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) views the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, as acts of terrorism; and

(2) calls on the Secretary of State to designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 624—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY IN 2022, INCLUDING INCREASING INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FAKE OR COUNTERFEIT FENTANYL PILLS ON FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 624

Whereas drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States;

Whereas many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand opioids or stimulants;

Whereas drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose;

Whereas 4 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal dose;

Whereas counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and methamphetamine;

Whereas the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies has increased by nearly 502 percent since 2019;

Whereas more than 9,500,000 counterfeit pills were seized within the last year, which exceeds the total number of seizures for the previous 2 years combined;

Whereas fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has also been detected in street drugs such as heroin and cocaine;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in October 2021, more than 105,000 individuals in the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and 69,000 of those deaths involved illicit fentanyl;

Whereas, over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among individuals aged 15 to 35 has increased 6-fold, largely driven by the increase in illicit fentanyl drugs;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in April 2021, the leading cause of death for individuals in the United States aged 18 to 45 was illicit fentanyl;

Whereas fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types combined;

Whereas, in 2020, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 94 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group;

Whereas, in 2020, fentanyl involvement in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 169 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group; and

Whereas, in 2020, there were 56,516 reported overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day, which include increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people;

(2) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies that work to combat the proliferation of counterfeit pills;

(3) encourages the use of existing authorities to proactively stop and prevent the spread of illicit counterfeit pills; and

(4) designates May 10, 2022 as “National Fentanyl Awareness Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 23RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 8 THROUGH MAY 14, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 625

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for the children of those families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held

accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2020–2021 school year, more than 7,700 public charter schools served approximately 3,600,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 400,000 students in 2001 to 3,600,000 students in 2021, a more than ninefold increase in 20 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 234 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in at least 27 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, and, when compared to peers in traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in math;

Whereas a 2020 study from the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard University found greater academic gains for students in charter schools than for students in traditional public schools who took the reading and math assessments administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in fourth and eighth grade between 2005 and 2017, and African American and low-income students attending charter schools were almost 6 months ahead of their peers in reading and math compared with students in traditional public schools over the 12-year span of the study;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was a 7 percent growth in charter school enrollment between the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years; and

Whereas the 23rd annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 8 through May 14, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools